

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: GUYANESE PRESS COMMENT ON KISSINGER'S
LATAM TOUR

REF: USIA 4033

HEADLINED "KISSINGER'S LATIN TOUR WHY MAKE GUYANA A SCAPEGOAT?",
FEATURE ARTICLE BY CHIEF POLITICAL REPORTER OF GOVT-OWNED SUNDAY
CHRONICLE PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 29.

BEGINS BY ASSERTING THAT: "IT IS NOW QUITE APPARENT THAT THE
RECENT VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA BY THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF
STATE DR. HENRY KISSINGER REFLECTED A CURIOUS BLEND OF MISAP-
PREHENSION OF THIRD WORLD POLITICS, CONCERN OVER AMERICAN SECURITY,
AND DOMESTIC ELECTIONEERING, WITH A DASH OF PURELY PERSONAL
CAMPAIGN STUMPING". "IN TERMS OF UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY, THE
PRIMARY PURPOSE OF KISSINGER'S VISIT WAS OBVIOUSLY TO FASHION A NEW
POLICY TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA. IT IS NO SECRET THAT SEVERAL
LATIN STATES THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN EXPRESSING THE VIEW THAT
THE HEMISPHERE TRADITIONALLY HAS BEEN REGARDED BY WASHINGTON WITH A
LOW PRIORITY. THEIR ARGUMENT IS REINFORCED BY THE FACT THAT THIS
WAS KISSINGER'S FIRST VISIT TO THE REGION". "BUT EVEN
FURTHER, AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA HAS BEEN IN
DISARRAY FOR SOME TIME, WITH THE 1974 TRADE ACT DEALING A DISAS-
TROUS BLOW TO IT. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN, IN RECENT YEARS, GROWING
FEELINGS OF NATIONALISM IN SOME HEMISPHERIC STATES, EVEN IF NOT
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FEELINGS OF SOCIALISM".

ARTICLE TERMS OAS A U.S. CREATION; SAYS IT HAS BEEN DISCREDITED BY ALL BUT A FEW HEMISPHERIC STATES. ON OTHER HAND SELA, THE PRODUCT OF VENEZUELAN ECONOMIC NATIONALISM, HAS GAINED SUPPORT OF MANY LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS. DECLARING THAT KISSINGER REQUIRED A VEHICLE FOR HIS NEW LATIN AMERICAN POLICY, ARTICLE SAYS HE "HIT UPON THE IDEA OF ISOLATING BOTH CUBA AND GUYANA- LEFT-WING COUNTRIES- USING, IN PARTICULAR, SCARE TACTICS". OFFICIALS, WHO ACCOMPANIED SECRETARY, ARE PORTRAYED IN ARTICLE AS HAVING SHOWED NO SCRUPLES IN "INVOKING THE BOGEY OF CUBAN INTERFERENCE IN LATIN AMERICAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS- THE SAME JUMBIE THAT WAS INVOKED NEARLY TWO DECADES WHEN CASTRO CAME TO POWER AND CUBA BEGAN TO SWING LEFT".

SECRETARY KISSINGER'S OFFERS OF SPECIAL DEALS TO COUNTRIES HE VISITED ARE TERMED IN ARTICLE AS AN EFFORT TO CREATE IMPRESSION THAT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ORDER IS BASED ON "A PECULIAR VERSION OF THE PROPOSED NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONSHIP NOW BEING HAMMERED OUT IN PARIS". BRAZIL RECEIVED THE BEST DEAL BECAUSE THE SHIFT OF THE BALANCE OF FORCES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA HAS GIVEN THE BRAZILIAN NAVY CRITICAL IMPORTANCE FOR NATO.

CONTINUING ARTICLE SAYS " IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT ALL THE VAGUE AND MALICIOUS ALLEGATIONS OF THE PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN GUYANA COINCIDED WITH THE START OF KISSINGER'S TOUR". "THIS IS SOMETIMES HARD TO UNDERSTAND, BUT IS EVIDENT THAT HE SAW HIS TRIP AS HAVING A PARAMOUNT ROLE TO PGUY IN ARRESTING WHAT HE FELT COULD BE A POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA BY WAY OF CUBA". GUYANA, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, IS CAUGHT UP IN THIS SITUATION BECAUSE OF HER OPEN SUPPORT FOR THE MPLA IN ANGOLA AND ITS RELATIONS WITH CUBA.

ARTICLE THEN MENTIONS THAT KISSINGER WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY GUYANA'S FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS DURING THEIR RECENT MEETING. IT THEN DECLARES THAT KISSINGER HAS "MYOPIC VIEW"OF GUYANA WHICH IS COMPLICATED BY FORD ADMINISTRATION'S "OBSESSION TO ATTACK CUBA AT EVERY TURN IN ORDER TO PLAY TO THE AMERICAN RIGHT IN THE ELECTION YEAR". CLAIM IS MADE THAT IF KISSINGER WANTED TO DEMONSTRATE U.S. WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH DEVELOPING NATIONS THEN HE SHOULD HAVE VISITED GUYANA. REASONS GIVEN ARE THAT GUYANA IS A LEADER IN SO-CALLED NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, OCCUPIES A LATIN SEAT ON UNCLASSIFIED

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SECURITY COUNCIL, AND HAS BEEN IN THE VANGUARD OF THE STRUGGLES OF DEVELOPING WORLD. "IF KISSINGER HAD SEEN ALL OF THIS, HE WOULD HARDLY WANT TO INSIST. AS HE IS APPARENTLY DOING THAT GUYANA IS PART OF SOME GRAND DESIGN, A SORT OF ACHILLES HEEL IN AMERICA. HE WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE REALISED THAT THERE ARE PECULIAR CONDITIONS IN THE BRITISH AFRO-ASIAN NATIONS WHERE THE RESPONSES BY THE SOCIETIES ARE NOT NECESSARILY FOR THE SAME MOTIVES AS FOR OTHER PARTS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD".

CONCLUDING, ARTICLE SAYS CENTRAL ISSUE CONFRONTING LATINAMERICA
IS WHETHER IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE POLITICAL FOOTBALL FOR DEMOCRATS
AND REPUBLICANS IN WASHINGTON WITHOUT REGARD TO THE CONSEQUENCES FOR
COUNTRIES OF HEMISPHERE. ALSO WHETHER LATIN AMERICA WILL CONTINUE
TO BE TREATED AS "MERE FOOTNOTE TO UNITED STATES SOVIET UNION
DETENTE AND BE DRAGGED INTO THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CRISIS TO SUIT
THE AIMS OF THE MAJOR POWERS". LATIN AMERICA, IT IS SUGGESTED,
SHOULD MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE HEMISPHERE'S POLICY TOWARD THE
U.S.

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